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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Letter dated 7 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a message from Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister of External Relations on Operation Lifeline for the Sudan (OLS) (see annex). In the letter, the Minister requests an emergency meeting between the Government and the United Nations agencies involved in the implementation of the OLS Agreement with a view to reviewing the Agreement and its implementation and arriving at an acceptable formula of cooperation for the delivery of relief to the population in need in southern Sudan in a manner that ensures the country's unity and territorial integrity by establishing a base for transportation of relief assistance from within the Sudan in the future.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 (b).

(*Signed*) Mubarak **Rahmtalla**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 August 2000 from the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

3 August 2000

You are aware of the desire of the Sudanese Government to ensure the delivery of relief to citizens in need because of the imposed war in the southern part of the country, as an ethical and legal obligation, a desire which is represented by the Government's signature of the framework agreement on Operation Lifelife Sudan (OLS) and its cooperation with the United Nations and its full respect for its obligations.

The Government of the Sudan has stressed its readiness for a complete ceasefire as a contribution to the creation of a propitious climate for the achievement of a just and lasting peace and from its desire to ensure the delivery of relief and services to the population in the southern part of the country. When the movement refused that, the Government agreed to the provisional ceasefire in Bahr al-Ghazal for humanitarian reasons. However, the Government's responsible position was constantly confronted by obdurate positions on the part of the rebel movement concerning the ceasefire, as was reflected in the recent treacherous attack launched by the movement on government and civilian positions in Bahr al-Ghazal province and the whole length of the railway line, inasmuch as it destroyed the bridge over which the railway to the town of Wau passes in a blatant attempt to place the town of Wau under siege and overthrow it.

In the past, the Sudanese Government has observed violations of the OLS agreement, but many violations were by organizations not operating under United Nations and OLS auspices. These violations left behind a dangerous security situation, which now threatens the unity and territorial integrity of the Sudan and necessitates an immediate review of the agreement and its implementation and decisive treatment of the loopholes resulting from these violations.

The Government of the Sudan requests you to call for the convening of an emergency meeting between the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations agencies involved in the implementation of the OLS agreement with a view to reviewing the agreement and its implementation and arriving at an acceptable formula of cooperation for the delivery of relief to the population in need in the southern part of the country in a manner that ensures the country's unity, territorial integrity and full sovereignty by establishing a basis for transportation of relief from within the Sudan in the future. I wish to reaffirm the Sudanese Government's full commitment to the delivery of relief to the needy, whether in the areas over which the Government has control or those subject to the rebel movement, inasmuch as the Government must help all Sudanese citizens. I reaffirm also the Government's desire for full cooperation with the United Nations and OLS and emphasize that the aim is not to abrogate OLS, for the Government is anxious to have it but desires that it should be reviewed in order to close the loopholes.

I am fully confident that you will guide the competent United Nations agencies in close cooperation with the Sudanese Government in this noble humanitarian cause, in order to spare the population more calamities of war and endurance of

hunger, thirst and displacement, while unequivocally condemning the rebel movement for its violation of the provisional ceasefire in Bahr al-Ghazal and its obstruction of the delivery of relief to the needy by its destruction of the bridges and facilities that assist in the delivery of relief.

(*Signed*) Dr. Mustafa Osman **Ismāil**
Minister for External Relations